

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Office action mailed March 31, 2006. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 10, and 14 being the independent claims. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended, and claims 3, 5, and 7-16 have been cancelled. The Applicants thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claims 1, 2, 4, and 6. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,165,805 to Bauer et al. ("Bauer").

Claims 14-16 have been cancelled; thus, the rejections directed against these claims are now moot. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 1. Accordingly, claims 17 and 18 should now be allowed.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

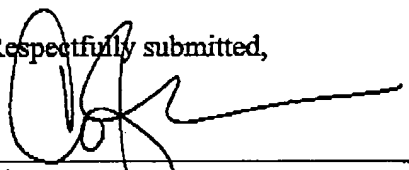
Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Dated 5/25/06
Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, P.C.
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Respectfully submitted,


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